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SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" Are not the Government aware that the two monsoons are failing every alternate years?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir. We have taken that into account."

The Boiler Department.

* 171 *Q.*—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the revenue now available and the expenditure in the Boiler Department;

(*b*) the increase in the past five years of boilers; and the expected income in registration of economisers and new boilers now contemplated;

(*c*) the number of Inspectors and the time spent by them outside headquarters every year; and

(*d*) if there is increase in work, whether the Government have any proposal to increase the number of Inspectors; if so, by how many?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The receipts and expenditure for the year 1946–47 were Rs. 77,364 and Rs. 71,549, respectively. (The expenditure excludes dearness and war allowances.)

" (*b*) The increase in the number of boilers during the past five years is 147. The expected income from the registration of economizers is Rs. 8,000 and that registration of new boilers is Rs. 10,200.

" (*c*) There were five Inspectors of Boilers during the three years, 1942–45 and six from 1945–46 onwards. The average number of days spent by the Inspectors outside headquarters during the five years from 1942–43 to 1946–47 was 212, 219, 232, 209 and 200 days respectively.

" (*d*) It is understood that the Chief Inspector of Boilers has submitted certain proposals to the Chief Engineer in this regard. They have not yet been received by the Government from the Chief Engineer."

Improvements to certain minor ports.

* 172 *Q.*—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are proposals to improve the minor ports of Baruva, Bimlipatam and Calingapatam; and

(*b*) whether any estimates have been prepared and when the work will be taken up?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) There are no proposals to improve the Ports of Baruva and Bimlipatam. There is a proposal to cement concrete the beach road at Calingapatam at an estimated cost of Rs. 16,000

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" (b) No estimate has been prepared, the work at Calingapatam will be taken up in 1948–49."

* 173 *Q.*—

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" On a point of order, Sir. I understand that even from the question itself, sub-clauses (*g*) and (*h*); one has to infer that the matter is *sub judice*. Therefore, I would ask whether it is proper to raise this question on the floor of this House? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" Yes, the matter is pending before the First-class Magistrate, Chingleput."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" As a matter of personal explanation, Sir. This question was tabled in March last at the time of the Budget Session. The accident occurred in February last and we are practically in the first week of December and the Court is yet investigating the case and it is *sub judice*. I would like to know, Sir, when the case will be disposed of and myself enabled to ask the question."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I do not know whether the Hon. Minister can answer the question."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" I understand the framing of charges was delayed for about a month and the case is being dragged on and I also understand that some gull-mall is being made to foist the crime on some unknown person instead of the real person."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" It is a matter for the Government."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I do not think the answer can get into the records, Sir; neither the question nor the answer."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" No question which is not answered goes into the record."

Prefabricated houses.

* 174 *Q.*—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any proposals to construct prefabricated houses;

(*b*) if they have any such proposals, what types of houses and at what cost they can be prepared; and

(*c*) if not, whether there is any proposal before the Government to start a factory for this purpose to enable people with small incomes to go in for them?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The Government have not so far considered this question.

" (*c*) The Provincial Housing Committee are considering the question of suitability of prefabricated houses and their final recommendations are awaited. Action will be taken on receipt of the recommendations of the Committee."